

Cloutier, Kathryn

From: Karen Manci [KMANCI@fcgov.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2001 9:40 AM
To: rjones@wapa.gov
Subject: Draft EA Comments

July 16, 2001

Joel K. Bladow
U.S. Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

Dear Mr. Bladow:

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to review the *Environmental Assessment for the Fort Collins 115kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project (June 2001)*. I only have a few comments:

1. Good report, with a thorough discussion of impacts and presenting info from the CNHP and Larimer County documents. Also, good discussion of impacts to visual, archaeological, and historical resources.
2. The Park, currently owned by the County, is McMurry not McMurray. You see it spelled both ways, but the correct spelling is McMurry*the McMurry family is very sensitive about that! You have it misspelled on maps and in text.
3. On Page 3-16, the Locust Stormwater Outfall Project is nearly complete now. Although the project impacted Springer, it did not impact the American black currant population. Your project may.
4. On Page 4-4, last paragraph**wee* should be *weed**that caught my eye, so I thought I'd better point it out unless no one else catches it!
5. Page 4-11, section 4.3.3.3*what about impacts to McMurry, Springer, Williams, Bignall, and Nix? Those are all *public land/designated open space. Also, you have riparian area at Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility, which is public land.
6. On Page 6-1, add City of Fort Collins, Natural Resources Department to list of City Agencies contacted.

Karen Manci
Senior Environmental Planner
Natural Resources Department



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

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NO REPLY NECESSARY

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JUL 19 2001

JUL 30 2001

Ms. Georgiana Contiguglia
State Historical Preservation Officer
Colorado State Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 58505

INFO COPY:

ROUTE TO:	INITIALS	DATE
→ J0000	21c3	7/30
J0400	9/1	8/21
J0110	28	8/6

Dear Ms. Contiguglia:

Western Area Power Administration (Western) has considered the effects of the undertaking described below on historic properties. Per 36 CFR 800.5, Western has determined that **no historic properties will be affected provided** that the project proponent follows the special conditions of compliance detailed below. The submission of this documentation and the attached report fulfills Western's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I. Description of the Undertaking - The proposed undertaking, including locational information and specific project dimensions, is described in the enclosed report: "Platte River Power Authority Timberline Substation and Richards Lake Substation to Rawhide Generation Plant Segments of the Western Area Power Administration Flatiron-Poudre Transmission Line Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Larimer County, Colorado," by Greystone Environmental Consultants. Please provide comments on this report as well as on our eligibility recommendations.

Western, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, is the lead federal agency for the project to upgrade the electric transmission system in the Fort Collins, Colorado area. Platte River Power Authority (Platte River) is proposing to add additional generation at its Rawhide Power Plant, to rebuild and upgrade two miles of Western's existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and to install additional 230-kV transmission to Platte River's existing electrical system.

No access roads outside of the right-of-ways will be affected. Land status includes only private lands. The project starts on the south side of Fort Collins and ends at the Rawhide Generation Plant north of Fort Collins. The current right-of-ways will be used for all project upgrades. As a result, there will be no new visual impacts as an existing transmission line is present in the right-of-ways.

II. Methodology and Reporting - Approximately 848 acres were surveyed with a survey interval of 20-30 meters. The right-of-way width varied from urban to rural areas. The urban width was 100 feet and in rural areas varied from 150-200 feet in width.

III. Resources Located, Identified, and Evaluated (Significance Criteria Considered) – A total of 14 new sites and 7 isolated finds were recorded. Eight previously recorded historic resources were relocated or had new segments recorded. Most sites are historic, primarily irrigation-related. Although most of the irrigation-related sites are recommended as not eligible on an individual basis, they may be eligible as part of a thematic nomination. For this project, they were evaluated on an individual basis. The development of a thematic nomination is out of scope for this project, since a 200 foot-wide corridor doesn't provide the best information to evaluate integrity of each segment, or look at similar canals and ditches in the area. However, all sites, including the irrigation features, will be avoided by the project.

Newly Recorded Sites

Site **5LR9925** is a railroad spur from the Burlington Northern line to the Valley Steel and Wire Company. The line is no longer in use. This site is recommended as not eligible.

Site **5LR9927** is an 18-inch irrigation pipe under the abandoned C&S Burlington Northern Rex Branch rail bed. The pipe may have connected to the Fort Collins Irrigation Ditch, but no longer does. Western recommends it is not eligible.

Site **5LR9928** is a poured cement and brick culvert with PVC piping. It runs under the abandoned C&S Burlington Northern Rex Branch rail bed and leads to a small unnamed drainage ditch. This site is recommended as not eligible.

Site **5LR9929** is a segment of the Little Cache la Poudre Ditch. It was built in 1872, but is not unique or built for a unique purpose. Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9930** is a rock feature 7 x 3 meters. It is located about one mile from the Yelek site, which contains numerous stone enclosures. Western recommends the site as eligible.

Site **5LR9932** is a stone circle 3 x 4 meters with lithic artifacts. Western recommends the site as eligible.

Site **5LR9934** consists of two sandstone boulders with historic inscriptions. Since the site cannot be linked to a person or event of local significance, Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9936** is a segment of the North Poudre Canal. The canal was built in the 1930s by the Bureau of Reclamation and the North Poudre Irrigation Company. It is not unique, so Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9937** is a small lithic scatter consisting of six artifacts. Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9938** is a large lithic scatter consisting of 200-300 flakes. Western recommends the site as eligible.

Site **5LR9941** is a lithic scatter with approximately 44 artifacts. There is little chance of subsurface intact deposits. Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9942** is a lithic scatter with nine artifacts. Western recommends the site as not eligible.

Site **5LR9943** is a segment of the Outlet Ditch. The ditch is seldom used and is fed from Lindenmeier Lake. The builder is unknown and the ditch is not unique. Western recommends the site as not eligible.

⁸⁹³²
Site **5LR9945** is a segment of the Larimer County Ditch. It was built in 1881 and is fed by the Cache la Poudre River. It is not unique and Western recommends the site as not eligible. *This site was determined eligible on January 19/2001.*

Previously Recorded Sites

Site **5LR962.1** is the Dry Creek Ditch and is a newly recorded segment. It was built around 1861. It has been modified and acquired additional water rights. It is not unique. The site recommended as not eligible.

Site **5LR995.2** is the Lake Canal Ditch and is a newly recorded segment. Date of construction is 1862 by the Greeley Colony. The ditch is in good condition and still serves its original purpose. The site is recommended as eligible.

Site **5LR1327.4** is one of the Colorado and Southern/Burlington Northern Railroad bridges. This is a re-evaluation of this bridge over the Arthur Ditch. The bridge is continuing to deteriorate. The site is recommended as not eligible.

Site **5LR1568** is the Coy/Hoffman barn. This is a re-evaluation of the building. The barn has been restored. It is currently listed on the State Register of Historic Properties and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Site **5LR1616** is the Fort Collins Sugar Manufacturing Company. This is a re-evaluation of the site. It extends the boundaries southward. It is not considered eligible.

Site **5LR1824.2** is the Arthur Irrigation Ditch, or the Fort Collins Irrigation Ditch. This is a newly recorded segment. It was constructed around 1887-1890 but is not unique. It is not eligible.

Site **5LR1829.2** is the Josh Ames Ditch and is a newly recorded segment. The ditch was originally constructed to supply water to the Fort Collins Sugar Factory and is abandoned. It is not unique, so Western recommends the site as not eligible.

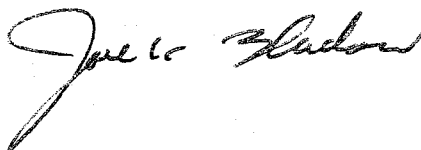
Site **5LR9649.2** is the Poudre Valley Canal and is a newly recorded segment. This site was previously determined as eligible.

IV. Effects Determination and Compliance Decision - Effects determinations are the responsibility of the lead agency. Western has considered the nature of the undertaking and the presence of historic properties that possess the qualities of integrity and potentially meet at least one of the other criteria necessary to be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Western has determined that **no historic properties will be affected** by the undertaking **provided** that Western follows the conditions established below. Western considers that the stipulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, have been satisfied.

V. Special Conditions of Compliance - The project will avoid impacts to all sites recorded or re-recorded for this project. The project will span all sites, and all irrigation features will be crossed at constructed existing crossings.

Please comment with our determinations of **no historic properties affected** and eligibility determinations. If you have any questions, please telephone Rodney Jones, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, at (970) 461-7371, or Mary Barger, Corporate Services Office, at (720) 963-7253.

Sincerely,




Joel K. Bladow
Regional Manager

Enclosure

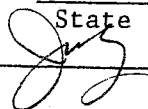
cc: (w/o enclosure)
Mr. Mike Dahl
Division Manager
Power System Operation
Platte River Power Authority
2000 East Horsetooth Road
Fort Collins, CO 808525-5721

Ms. Kathryn Cloutier
Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.
5231 South Quebec Street
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

I concur


State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

 25, 2001



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Colorado Field Office
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

REPLY REFER TO:
ES/CO:WAPA
Mail Stop 65412

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
WESTERN
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SEP 12 2001

NO REPLY NECESSARY
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DATE

SEP 14 2001

Mr. Joel Bladow
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, Colorado 80539-3003

INFO COPY:

ROUTE TO:	INITIALS	DATE
Acco	JLB	9/14/01
Jo400	DB	9/17/01
Jo420	DB	9/17/01

Dear Mr. Joel Bladow:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received your letter of June 29, 2001, regarding Platte River Power Authority's proposed Fort Collins Transmission Line Upgrade Project. The Platte River Power Authority proposes to add additional generation at its Rawhide Power Plant, to rebuild and upgrade two miles of Western Area Power Administration's (Western) existing 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and to install additional 230 kV transmission to Platt River Authority's existing electrical system. You requested concurrence with Western's determination of effect for threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species.

Based on the information in the Environmental Assessment and the Biological Assessment, the Service concurs with Western's determination that this project will have "no effect" on the black-footed ferret, black-tailed prairie dog, Ute ladies' tresses orchid, and the Colorado butterfly plant.

Based on the information in the Environmental Assessment and the Biological Assessment, as well as from a meeting in the Service's Colorado Field Office (September 10, 2001), the Service concurs with Western's determination that the project is "not likely to adversely affect" the bald eagle, mountain plover, and the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (Preble's mouse). These comments have been prepared under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et. seq.). Specific to the Preble's mouse, the Service understands that Preble's mouse habitat will be avoided by project activities with the exception of minimal shrub trimming in Preble's mouse habitat and pole replacement activities (estimated 2 poles) in upland habitats. Pole replacement in upland Preble's mouse habitats will occur when the mouse is inactive (November 1 through April 30). Additional new disturbances (i.e., pull sites, new access roads) within Preble's mouse habitat will require further consultation with the Service. Specific to the mountain plover, the Service understands that surveys will be conducted in areas of suitable mountain plover habitat and, if mountain plover are located, project activities will avoid occupied areas from April 1 through July 31.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this report. If the Service can be of further assistance, please contact Leslie Ellwood at (303) 275-2383.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "LeRoy W. Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "LeRoy" being more prominent.

LeRoy W. Carlson
Colorado Field Supervisor

cc Reading file
Project file

Reference: Concur\WAPAFtColli